A/66/19

United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

2012 substantive session (New York, 21 February-16 March and 11 September 2012)

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-sixth Session
Supplement No. 19

Please recycle

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-sixth Session
Supplement No. 19

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

2012 substantive session
(New York, 21 February-16 March and 11 September 2012)

United Nations • New York, 2012

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[11 September 2012]

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Organizational matters	2
III.	Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group	4
IV.	Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session	5
V.	Proposals, recommendations and conclusions	6
	A. Introduction	6
	B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates	7
	C. Restructuring of peacekeeping	8
	D. Safety and security	8
	E. Conduct and discipline	11
	F. Strengthening operational capacity	15
	G. Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations	20
	H. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries	41
	I. Triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries	42
	J. Cooperation with regional arrangements	44
	K. Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities	45
	L. Developing stronger United Nations field support arrangements	46
	M. Best practices and training	48
	N. Personnel	51
	O. Financial issues	53
	P. Other matters	55
Annexes		
I.	Decision on working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group of the Whole	56
II.	Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2012 session	57

Chapter I
Introduction

1. By its resolution 65/310, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/65/19); decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field; and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

Chapter II
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held its 2012 session at United Nations Headquarters from 21 February to 16 March and on 11 September 2012 and held five formal meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the 222nd (opening) meeting, on 21 February, the Acting President of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support made statements.

4. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provided support to the Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Committee.

B. Election of officers

5. At its 222nd meeting, the Committee elected its officers by acclamation, as follows:

Chair:

Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Mateo Estreme (Argentina)
Mr. Gilles Rivard (Canada)
Mr. Kazutoshi Aikawa (Japan)
Mr. Zbigniew Szlek (Poland)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Mohamed Sarwat Selim (Egypt)

C. Agenda

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.121/2012/L.1), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. General debate.
6. Consideration of the draft report by the Working Group of the Whole.
7. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.
8. Other matters.

7. The Committee also approved its draft programme of work (A/AC.121/2012/L.2).

D. Organization of work

8. At its 222nd meeting, on 21 February, the Committee decided to establish a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Gilles Rivard (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision on the working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.121/2012/L.3), as orally revised (see annex I).

10. The composition of the Committee at its 2012 session is contained in annex II to the present report. The list of documents for the session is contained in document A/AC.121/2012/INF/2, and the list of participants at the session is contained in document A/AC.121/2012/INF/4.

E. Proceedings of the Committee

11. At its 222nd to 225th meetings, on 21 and 22 February, the Committee held a general debate on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the European Union (also on behalf of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, which aligned themselves with the statement), Chile (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), New Zealand (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as by the observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

12. On 23 and 24 February, briefings were presented to the Working Group of the Whole on the following topics: operational issues; civilian capacities; heads of police components; peacebuilding partners; and gender and peacekeeping.

13. The Working Group of the Whole and its seven sub-working groups met from 5 to 16 March and on 11 September, and concluded their work on draft recommendations.

Chapter III
Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

14. At its 226th meeting, on 11 September 2012, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole and decided to include its recommendations in the current report (see paras. 16-289) for consideration by the General Assembly. Statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, the European Union, New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia and Canada), Egypt (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the United States of America and Canada (in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole).

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session

15. At its 226th meeting, on 11 September 2012, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly, as introduced by the Rapporteur.

Chapter V
Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

16. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

17. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

18. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of 29 May, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as providing an occasion to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in serving the cause of peace.

19. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that United Nations peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on United Nations peacekeeping operations. Thus, the Special Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, recalls that its recommendations and conclusions reflect, first and foremost, its unique peacekeeping expertise.

20. Noting the continued efforts of United Nations peacekeeping in various parts of the world, which requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to maintain international peace and security effectively. This calls for, inter alia, improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of United Nations peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

21. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations should be the subject of thorough consideration in the Special Committee.

22. The Special Committee, acknowledging the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations, requests the Secretariat to provide, at the start of its substantive session in 2013, an informal briefing, especially with regard to operational field issues, including the Secretariat's assessment of developments in ongoing United Nations peacekeeping operations.

23. The Special Committee recalls that United Nations peacekeeping is conducted in accordance with the relevant chapters of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, nothing in the present report circumscribes the primary responsibility of the Security Council for maintaining or restoring international peace and security.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

24. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

25. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, is essential to its success.

26. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to the ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and development.

27. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of providing peacekeeping operations with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation and secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, adequate resources and congruity among mandates, resources and realizable objectives. The Special Committee emphasizes that, when changes are made to an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made in the resources available to a peacekeeping operation for carrying out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council in consultation with troop-contributing countries through the mechanisms prescribed in Council resolution 1353 (2001) and the note by the President of the Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56).

28. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter.

29. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations are within the purview of the Security Council.

C. Restructuring of peacekeeping

30. The Special Committee stresses that successful oversight requires but is not limited to the principles of unity of command and integration of efforts at all levels, in the field and at Headquarters. The Special Committee takes note of the report on the implementation of the integrated operational teams (A/65/669) and urges the Secretariat to ensure optimal configuration of integrated operational teams through the enhancement of their flexibility and an effective use of resources.

31. The Special Committee stresses the importance of effective Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support that are efficiently structured and adequately staffed, in particular, but not exclusively, during periods of surge, transition and drawdown of peacekeeping operations, and stresses that effective coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support must lead to more efficient oversight and better responsiveness to changes in the field.

32. The Special Committee underlines the importance of strengthening coherence among the various strands of policy development carried out in different areas of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support and notes the role of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division in this process.

33. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of preserving unity of command in missions at all levels, as well as coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the field and up to and including at Headquarters, and in this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the briefing provided by the Secretariat in February 2012 on the results of the evaluation on command and control arrangements for peacekeeping.

34. The Special Committee, noting the increasing complexity of United Nations peacekeeping operations, urges the Secretariat to better develop strategic communication and operational-level public information activities to ensure continued support for United Nations peacekeeping and to better respond to public perceptions of peacekeeping's role and impact on the ground.

D. Safety and security

35. The Special Committee condemns, in the strongest terms, the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and all acts of violence against such personnel and recognizes that they constitute a major challenge to United Nations field operations. The Special Committee also condemns restrictions in any form on the freedom of movement of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and assets within the mandate, in particular restrictions in respect of medical evacuation. The Special Committee expresses concerns about the security threats and targeted attacks against United Nations peacekeepers in many peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretary-General to take all measures deemed necessary to strengthen

United Nations field security arrangements and improve the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers and, especially, unarmed personnel.

36. The Special Committee condemns in particular, in the strongest terms, targeted attacks against United Nations personnel and all criminal acts against such personnel, including kidnapping and carjacking. It also finds totally unacceptable any attempts to seize or destroy United Nations and contingent-owned property. The Special Committee stresses the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of United Nations peacekeeping personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions.

37. The Special Committee urges those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol thereto. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 58/82, in particular its recommendation that key provisions of the Convention, including those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, be included in status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host-country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and host countries.

38. The Special Committee underlines the importance of training and providing peacekeeping personnel with adequate equipment to fulfil the mandate in accordance with United Nations standards as key factors in preventing casualties and in ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers. In this regard, the Special Committee also underlines the need to strengthen the respective roles of the United Nations Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries.

39. The Special Committee notes the finalization of the draft policy on the use of modern technology, focusing on the improvement of situational awareness, and related standard operating procedures, aimed at enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers. The Special Committee stresses that use of technology aimed at enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers must uphold the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and fundamental principles of peacekeeping. The Special Committee looks forward to further consideration of the related legal, operational, technical and financial aspects, in particular the element of the consent of the countries concerned with regard to the application of such means in the field, and notes the Secretariat's intention to use assets to enhance situational awareness, if available, on a case-by-case basis. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an assessment of the impact of the above-mentioned aspects on the implementation of the policy during the 2013 regular session.

40. The Special Committee recognizes the critical role that Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres play in enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to update on the impact of Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres on mission performance in advance of the 2013 regular session.

41. The Special Committee notes the progress made in the implementation of the Security Level System as part of the United Nations Security Risk Management model threat assessment. The Special Committee requests that threat assessments in

the existing missions be provided on a regular basis during the scheduled meetings of the troop- and police-contributing countries. The Special Committee also requests an update on further implementation of this methodology, to be presented before its next substantive session.

42. The Special Committee reiterates its request to be fully informed of investigations in peacekeeping field missions, except for misconduct cases, where relevant memorandums of understanding will apply. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat continue its efforts to improve the information of and communications with concerned Member States whenever there is an incident in a peacekeeping mission that negatively affects operational effectiveness or results in serious injury to or death of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, from the beginning to the conclusion of the investigation of the incident. The Special Committee urges that findings of boards of inquiry on serious injury or death be immediately communicated to the concerned Member States. The Special Committee notes the issuance of an internal guidance document entitled "The standard operating procedure: boards of inquiry 2011". The Special Committee requests that an assessment on the implementation be presented for its consideration before its next substantive session.

43. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on all processes involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against deployed United Nations peacekeepers (A/66/598). The Special Committee underlines the need for clear demarcation of the applicability of the laws of the host Government and the troop- and police-contributing countries with respect to crimes committed against United Nations peacekeepers, and the imperative of uniformed applicability of the respective laws to the military and the police components of the peacekeeping mission. The Special Committee requests a briefing, prior to the next substantive session of the Special Committee, to further clarify all United Nations internal policies, rules and procedures on internal investigations of misconduct against United Nations peacekeepers.

44. The Special Committee stresses that any information about an occurrence in the United Nations missions involving sickness, injury or death of a peacekeeper should be brought to the notice of the Permanent Mission of the concerned Member State in a detailed and timely manner. In this regard, the Secretariat is asked, upon the occurrence of the incident, to bring information to the notice of the concerned State as soon as possible.

45. The Special Committee notes with concern that some deployed troop formations continue to be stretched to cover geographical areas that exceed their capacities. Such practices not only threaten the safety and security of those troops, but also adversely affect their performance, discipline, command and control and capacity to implement the mandate. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to present, before its next session, an update on the assessment of the causes of such deviations and, where appropriate, proposals regarding ways to remedy the situation and to ensure that the United Nations peacekeeping personnel are deployed in accordance with the agreed concepts of operation and deployment arrangements. Any significant adjustments in or changes to the original concept of operations, rules of engagement or force requirements should be made in close consultation with, and with the consent of, the troop-contributing countries.

46. The Special Committee underlines the importance of thoroughly vetting local personnel hired by peacekeeping missions, including for criminal and human rights violations and links to security companies. The Special Committee takes note of the proposal for development of a vetting policy and in this regard, the Committee requests that it be kept informed of the work of the working group established by the High-level Committee on Management to lead in the research and development, as appropriate, of a vetting policy.

47. The Special Committee stresses that the use of technology in a peacekeeping context must uphold the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, namely the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States, and adhere to the fundamental principles of peacekeeping, in particular regarding the consent of the host State.

48. The Special Committee takes note of and requests further developments of the joint standard operating procedures and other relevant policies to enhance the mechanisms in the Secretariat and the field to manage crisis situations in a well-coordinated and effective manner. The Special Committee recommends that, whenever possible, planned crisis response exercises be conducted in the missions and at Headquarters. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an update on these efforts for its consideration during the 2013 regular session.

49. The Special Committee underlines the importance it places on the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field. The Special Committee emphasizes the responsibility of both the United Nations and the Member States to ensure that medical personnel assigned in mission areas are qualified to provide immediate and proper medical attention to peacekeepers.

E. Conduct and discipline

50. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to ensure that all categories of personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations function in such a manner as to preserve the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations, and notes with appreciation the efforts made in this regard. The Special Committee emphasizes that misconduct is unacceptable and that the reputation of peacekeeping missions in the eyes of the local population can have a direct bearing on these missions' operational effectiveness.

51. The Special Committee notes with regret that, despite measures taken to establish and enforce a policy of zero tolerance for misconduct, there continue to be substantiated allegations of serious misconduct, including but not limited to, the most egregious forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee notes, however, the overall decline in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/66/699). The Special Committee requests that continued efforts be taken to enforce the rules and regulations governing misconduct in order to preserve the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations and, in this regard, looks forward to a more comprehensive analysis of raw data in the annual report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

52. The Special Committee re-emphasizes the principle that the same standards of conduct must be applied without exception to all categories of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee stresses that in the case of any violations of standards, appropriate action will be taken within the authority of the Secretary-General, while criminal and disciplinary responsibility in respect of members of national contingents will be exercised in accordance with the national law of the contributing State. The Special Committee affirms that all peacekeeping personnel must be informed of and adhere to all applicable rules, regulations, provisions and guidelines provided by the United Nations for peacekeepers, as well as national laws and regulations. The Special Committee reaffirms that all acts of misconduct should be investigated and punished without delay in accordance both with due process of law and with memorandums of understanding that have been concluded between the United Nations and the contributing State.

53. The Special Committee welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 66/93 on the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, and strongly encourages Member States to implement all the provisions of the resolution, in particular the provision regarding establishing jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing domestic criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials. The Special Committee looks forward to further progress in addressing the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission.

54. The Special Committee reiterates that troop- and police-contributing countries bear the primary responsibility for maintaining discipline among their contingents deployed in peacekeeping missions.

55. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to enhance the integration of conduct and discipline as a global effort, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report (A/66/699). The Special Committee requests an update on progress in the development of the Integrated Conduct and Discipline Framework, before the next substantive session in 2013.

56. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the actions taken to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop- or police-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel, and requests that the United Nations take appropriate measures in this regard. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations continue to ensure that prompt actions are taken to restore the image and credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop- or police-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are ultimately unproven.

57. The Special Committee emphasizes that the leadership of managers and commanders is vital in the prevention of misconduct. The Special Committee reiterates that the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that prevents misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, must be part of the performance objectives of managers and commanders involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee notes with appreciation that accountability compacts have been extended to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and heads of mission, and calls upon Member States to take the steps necessary to ensure that the commanders and

contingents they contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations are responsible for the conduct and discipline of their national contingent while assigned to United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee encourages managers and commanders to continue to facilitate investigations within their existing responsibilities.

58. The Special Committee, bearing in mind the responsibility of troop-contributing countries for investigating allegations of misconduct involving members of military contingents, as provided for by the revised model memorandum of understanding, reiterates its call upon Member States to provide the Secretariat in a timely manner with the required information on disciplinary actions taken at the national level with respect to substantiated cases of misconduct by military and police personnel and improve responsiveness in this regard. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to include, in his annual report, a numerical summary of requests for information and responses.

59. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts being undertaken by the Secretariat to standardize a notification process to Member States, for serious allegations of misconduct involving uniformed personnel deployed as experts on mission. The Special Committee requests that clear and detailed guidance for field missions be finalized expeditiously so as to ensure that this process of notification is implemented effectively and efficiently, and also requests that the Secretariat report on this matter at its next substantive session.

60. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the regularly updated website dedicated to conduct and discipline, including statistical information, which helps the Department of Field Support to evaluate progress and assists Member States to gain a better understanding of the policies of the United Nations in dealing with conduct and discipline issues. The Special Committee also recognizes the need for a means of accurately identifying all categories of peacekeeping personnel in order to identify personnel against whom there have been substantiated allegations of Category 1 serious misconduct, including sexual misconduct. The determination of such misconduct, for military personnel, is based on investigations by troop-contributing countries, as stipulated under the revised memorandum of understanding, in order to prevent such individuals from future United Nations service or employment, in any capacity. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee, before its 2013 substantive session, on steps taken to enhance the Misconduct Tracking System with such information and on procedures to prevent such individuals from future United Nations service or employment, in any capacity.

61. The Special Committee welcomes the notification given by the Secretariat to field missions concerning the procedures for notifying the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of allegations of Category 1 misconduct, in order to expedite notification to Member States of allegations involving their personnel.

62. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Conduct and Discipline Unit at United Nations Headquarters and the conduct and discipline teams in the field, and continues to encourage further strengthening of cooperation and coordination among the Conduct and Discipline Unit at United Nations Headquarters; its teams in the field; the Office of Internal Oversight Services; and other relevant entities, both at Headquarters and in the field. The Special Committee

requests the Secretariat to conduct an internal review with a view to considering what additional measures may be necessary, and also requests a briefing on this matter before its next substantive session.

63. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen investigations through the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

64. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of continued and strengthened efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Stressing the importance of eliminating all forms of misconduct, the Special Committee remains concerned about new cases of misconduct reported, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and about the number of outstanding allegations still awaiting investigation, and encourages continued efforts to address this backlog. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to continue monitoring this effort and reiterates that all parties responsible to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse must be held accountable. The Special Committee requests that the measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse be made available before the end of 2012.

65. The Special Committee recalls the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/214 containing the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the progress made thus far, calls for the continued implementation of the Strategy, and looks forward to the completion of the framework being developed by the Secretariat to outline available support and actors at the mission and country levels, as an adaptable template for assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee recognizes that the completion of work on the framework and related administrative steps to establish in-country networks of protection and support are key to creating a United Nations system-wide implementation of the Strategy. The Special Committee continues to encourage the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse to strengthen its leadership in respect of the Comprehensive Strategy. The Special Committee requests an update on progress in implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy before its 2013 substantive session.

66. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of welfare and recreation for the personnel serving in peacekeeping operations, including non-contingent personnel, bearing in mind that welfare and recreation also contribute to strengthening morale and discipline. The Special Committee reaffirms the important role of troop- and police-contributing countries in the welfare and recreation of contingent personnel, and believes that the provision of facilities related to welfare and recreation should be adequately prioritized during the establishment of peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee notes that there is a significant variation in the welfare and recreation programmes and amenities available to personnel deployed in various United Nations peacekeeping missions.

67. The Special Committee stresses the need for all categories of personnel to observe the highest standards of conduct while performing their duties. The Special Committee underlines the necessity to investigate promptly any allegations and to take disciplinary measures against personnel that have committed sexual exploitation and abuse.

68. The Special Committee stresses the need for continuous improvement of communication between the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries, so as to ensure the effectiveness of all procedures relating to conduct and discipline matters. The Special Committee underscores in particular the need for notifications to convey all relevant information in a detailed manner.

F. Strengthening operational capacity

1. General

69. The Special Committee underscores the importance of ensuring that a sound and timely interaction and a better understanding are maintained among the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries in order to devise clear, unambiguous and achievable mandates and to generate and mobilize the necessary political, human, financial and logistical resources and information capacity for achieving the mandates. In that regard, the Special Committee welcomes the continued efforts of the Security Council Working Group to address the issue of cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries and other stakeholders in the early phase of mandate drafting and throughout the entire life of the mission. The Special Committee recognizes the necessity for effective political processes and the provision of adequate resources to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

70. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for a comprehensive and inclusive discussion within the Committee on all aspects of the ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions, including by addressing the requirement for peacekeeping missions to be able to deter, through the posture they adopt and the actions they take, threats to the implementation of mandates, safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, and ongoing peace processes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles outlined in the present report. The Special Committee takes note of the section on means to enhance the operational effectiveness in peacekeeping missions in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee (A/66/619), and welcomes further dialogue on these matters in the Committee.

71. The Special Committee reiterates that there should be adequate capabilities and clear and appropriate operational guidelines for peacekeeping missions to ensure that they are able to effectively carry out all their mandated tasks. The Special Committee takes note with satisfaction of the Secretariat's ongoing work on the development of a comprehensive capability-driven approach with the aim of improving overall performance in the field. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue its work in this regard, in close cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries, and to report back to the Committee on the progress achieved.

72. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the operational readiness of peacekeepers to effectively implement mandates and continues to emphasize the role of troop-contributing countries in force generation, adequate preparation and predeployment training. The Special Committee encourages further cooperation between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries on measures to improve operational readiness.

73. The Special Committee takes note of the work of the Secretariat in developing the pilot project for the design and testing of a methodology for capability standards development for infantry battalions, staff officers and military medical support, with the aim of enhancing the capability of peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee looks forward to the operationalization of these capability standards, encourages the Secretariat to continue this work in close cooperation with Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, to test the standards, and requests an update on development progress before the next substantive session of the Committee. The Special Committee looks forward to an update on the pilot outcomes, including lessons learned, and requests that the Secretariat periodically update Member States on progress.

74. The Special Committee continues to recommend that the Security Council be fully advised on the availability of the operational and logistical capabilities which would be necessary for the success of a peacekeeping operation, prior to making a decision on a new or major change to an existing mandate. The Special Committee is of the view that, whenever the mandate of a mission is changed or amended, the Secretariat should ensure, at the earliest opportunity that the operational documents (including concept of operations and rules of engagement) reflect this and that the views of the troop- and police-contributing countries concerned be given due consideration.

75. The Special Committee notes the continuing development of Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres, recognizing the critical role these provide to overall mission success and effectiveness, in particular through enhancing mission situational awareness through integrated operational reporting, support to crisis management and analysis of threats to mission mandates. The Special Committee notes that some field missions continue to experience challenges to the effective operation of Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres. In this regard, the Special Committee continues to emphasize the importance of recruiting appropriately qualified personnel and delivering training to the staff of the Centres to ensure maximum effect and to encourage continuity at post. The Special Committee also reaffirms the need for all mission components to ensure that information is shared with Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres in a timely fashion, and that the Centres make their product available to mission senior leadership with minimal delay. The Special Committee requests an update on Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres before its 2013 session.

76. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring effective command and control in peacekeeping operations. In this context, the Special Committee encourages dialogue among Member States, the Secretariat and missions on steps to strengthen the understanding and application of command and control within peacekeeping missions.

2. Military capacities

77. The Special Committee notes with concern the gap between peacekeeping mandates and the enabling assets available to missions, and recognizes that existing shortages must be overcome in order for the increasingly complex mandated tasks to be properly carried out. In this regard, the Special Committee notes that capability gaps constitute a critical issue which can be dealt with on multiple fronts and in a

coherent manner. The Special Committee also notes that the Committee itself, along with other entities and mechanisms (such as the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment, the working group on helicopters, and bilateral and triangular cooperation), all have roles to play in this effort, and that progress in one of these areas cannot substitute progress in the others. In this context, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to ensure cohesion in the capability-driven approach and to support the different initiatives in place to address this issue.

78. The Special Committee notes with ongoing concern the negative impact that the absence of critical assets, including military helicopters, is having on the mobility of personnel and, as a result, on the ability of the missions to successfully carry out their mandates.

79. While noting the Secretary-General's report on the administrative and safety arrangements relating to the management of military utility helicopters in peacekeeping operations (A/64/768), the Special Committee recognizes the continuing shortfall in the availability of military helicopters as well as utilization rate issues relating to military helicopters in peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee notes with concern these complex challenges and the impact they are having on the ability of missions to fulfil their mandates, as well as posing potential risks to the safety and security of peacekeepers.

80. Taking note of the efforts of the Secretariat to address these challenges, the Special Committee requests it to take further steps to identify the factors that prevent troop-contributing countries from contributing military helicopters and that affect utilization rates in missions. Accordingly, the Secretariat, in identifying these factors, is requested to work in close cooperation with Member States and make recommendations to address these matters to the General Assembly for its consideration, as appropriate. Areas to consider in taking these steps should include reimbursement rates, contractual matters, utilization arrangements, force-generation planning and associated availability arrangements, and troop-contributing country capabilities. The Special Committee requests that periodic briefings on progress and recommendations be presented before its next substantive session. In this regard, the Special Committee also notes that the Committee itself, along with other entities and mechanisms, such as the Fifth Committee, have a role to play in this effort.

81. The Special Committee notes the gap lists produced by the Secretariat aimed at identifying and communicating critical requirements in the missions and looks forward to the implementation of the recommendations from the impact assessment, on improving the effectiveness of the gap lists and their utility for the Secretariat and Member States. In this context, the Special Committee notes the importance of regular updates by the Secretariat, through a periodic gap report, on the impact of existing gaps on mandates.

82. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to play a significant role in improving coordination among capacity-building efforts of various regional, multilateral and bilateral actors directed towards establishing long-term and stronger relationships with current or potential troop-contributing countries, including through developing outreach strategies. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretariat's evaluation of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System and requests a briefing on the findings of the evaluation in advance of the next substantive session of the Committee.

83. The Special Committee notes recent advances in inter-mission cooperation. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat, in consultation with troop-contributing countries, to explore all opportunities and challenges for inter-mission cooperation for consideration by the Security Council and under the United Nations administrative and budgetary rules and regulations.

84. The Special Committee continues to emphasize the need to expand the base of troop-contributing countries to encompass new contributors while retaining the current and established ones. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to facilitate various enabling efforts, including through multilateral and bilateral arrangements. The Special Committee calls upon the Department of Field Support to build on the success of these initiatives as a means of encouraging Member States to develop mutually beneficial cooperation agreements to enlarge the base of troop-contributing countries, including through other Member States, in order to overcome shortfalls in both contingent-owned equipment and sustainability faced by some troop-contributing countries and in this way to enhance cooperation that would facilitate enlargement of the base of troop-contributing countries.

85. The Special Committee takes note of the fact that decisions were taken by the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment by consensus, but that agreement was not reached on all capability issues. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of effective and transparent inspections of contingent-owned equipment and recommends that the holdings of contingent-owned equipment be regularly reviewed to reflect mission requirements.

86. To facilitate effective force generation and the timely deployment of peacekeeping units, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to recognize the multiplicity of equipment and consult with troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries to address potential issues relating to contingent-owned equipment during negotiations on memorandums of understanding.

3. United Nations police capacities

87. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations police (A/66/615), outlining the function of the Police Division and the challenges faced by the police components in the United Nations peacekeeping missions. Based on that report, the Special Committee requests a comprehensive briefing, before the end of 2012, outlining the future role of the United Nations police within United Nations field missions, including the priorities and structure required to support this role. The Special Committee stresses further the importance of addressing remaining capacity gaps, including staffing and recruitment, in the Police Division in a timely manner, in order to ensure efficiency and transparency in the work of the Division.

88. The Special Committee recognizes the need for, and the challenges faced in, recruiting qualified personnel for police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to improve procedures and guidance, in close consultation with police-contributing countries, for timely, effective and transparent evaluation and recruitment of candidates. The Special Committee is of the view that the police should be matched with positions that make the best use of their specific areas of

expertise, and recognizes Member States' continued efforts to nominate qualified personnel. The Special Committee requests a briefing, before the end of 2012, on the recruitment process, the criteria for selection and the timelines thereof and further efforts aimed at improving the existing capabilities.

89. The Special Committee takes note of the steps taken since its previous session to expand the Standing Police Capacity in order to respond quickly to the needs of missions in the field. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide more regular briefings throughout 2012 regarding the developments and challenges of the Standing Police Capacity, and the relationship with the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity.

90. The Special Committee notes with concern the findings of the recent evaluations of formed police units, referred to in paragraph 62 of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations police (A/66/615). In this regard, the Special Committee underlines the importance of the early finalization of the revision by the Secretariat of the guidelines on predeployment assessment of formed police units. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of transparency in the nomination/selection/repatriation system of the formed police units, and notes the necessity of aligning the tasks assigned to formed police units with mission-mandated tasks. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide, before its next substantive session, a briefing on the implementation of the revised policy on formed police units in United Nations peacekeeping operations in all relevant fields, including in-mission assessment, identifying adequate resource provisions, and practical steps taken to enhance the efficacy of formed police units on the ground.

91. The Special Committee recognizes the growing need to build institutional police capacity in post-conflict environments and notes the ongoing work undertaken by Member States, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Secretariat. In this regard, the Committee emphasizes that the process should be carried out in consultation with and driven by Member States. The Special Committee requests a briefing on the subject by the end of 2012.

92. The Special Committee recognizes that Member States often function on different policing models, making efforts to ensure a unified policing approach a particular challenge in United Nations field operations. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages continued efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to further streamline processes and procedures, including predeployment training.

93. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of the ongoing development of a strategic guidance framework. The Special Committee reiterates the necessity of engaging all Member States in this process in an open and consultative manner, and in this regard, looks forward to an inclusive discussion on the findings of the upcoming consultations.

94. The Special Committee reiterates its welcome for the increased participation of female police officers in United Nations peacekeeping operations, improving the missions' ability to respond, inter alia, to sexual and gender-based violence. The Special Committee welcomes the development of the United Nations police standardized training curriculum on investigating and preventing sexual and gender-based violence. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to set the curriculum

158. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the development of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators instrument and the completion of pilot phases. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to implement them in peacekeeping operations as planned. The Special Committee requests periodic updates on the use of the indicators and an assessment of how they have supported national justice strategies to strengthen the rule of law and assisted rule-of-law planning and assistance in peacekeeping contexts.

159. The Special Committee takes note of the need to provide support to correction services in a timely and effective manner, and of the challenges faced in supporting prisons in post-conflict countries. The Special Committee takes note of the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in developing a concept to support national authorities in establishing temporary prison facilities in the immediate aftermath of conflict or in response to natural disasters, when required, and requests the Secretariat to provide information on the elaboration of the concept prior to its next session. The Special Committee calls for Member States to be consulted throughout the development of this concept.

6. Gender and peacekeeping

160. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring the full and effective implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions including resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010), all relevant presidential statements, and all relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly resolutions 65/187 and 66/130, as well as its previous resolutions adopted under the agenda item entitled "Advancement of women".

161. The Special Committee looks forward to the finalization and implementation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support five-year forward-looking strategy on women, peace and security. The Special Committee emphasizes that the strategy should fully and effectively support the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda by the United Nations system under the overall leadership of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and concentrate on the areas where peacekeeping can have a particular added value.

162. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation the reporting by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Secretariat on women, peace and security and encourages continued reporting and briefings on women and peace and security, using the set of indicators, as appropriate, in accordance with presidential statement PRST/2010/22.

163. The Special Committee welcomes the "open days" organized by several field missions in the past year, in cooperation with UN-Women, and calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue convening, as a regular practice, open days in field operations, wherever appropriate. The Special Committee recognizes the open days as an additional useful tool to engage local communities, in particular women's groups.

164. The Special Committee acknowledges the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stresses the importance of their full, effective and equal participation in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, including at the decision-making level. The Special

Committee appreciates the increase in the proportion of women in senior managerial positions. The Special Committee continues to express its concern at the overall low proportion of women in all categories, at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping personnel at Headquarters and in the field. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the United Nations Police Division's Global Effort and its intention to raise the participation of female police officers to 20 per cent before 2014. The Special Committee continues to urge Member States and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to take all measures to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of peacekeeping operations by promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee reiterates its call upon Member States to continue to nominate more women, including for the highest positions and calls upon the Secretariat to appoint more women to leadership positions.

165. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue working in a cooperative and coordinated manner with UN-Women and all other relevant United Nations actors in order to ensure the full implementation of its mandate relating to the promotion of gender perspectives in peacekeeping operations, as well as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and all subsequent resolutions relating to women, peace and security, so as to optimize the effectiveness and impact of United Nations work in the area of women and peace and security.

166. The Special Committee continues to emphasize that it is a responsibility of the senior mission leadership to ensure gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions and, in this regard, calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to finalize and adopt its senior management checklist on gender mainstreaming. The Special Committee reiterates its call for the enhanced implementation and promotion of gender perspectives by all categories of personnel in multidimensional peacekeeping activities.

167. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the ongoing implementation of the gender training strategy and the draft training modules for the military, which are currently being piloted. The Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to finalize and launch a mandatory online training course on gender mainstreaming for civilian staff. The Special Committee also notes with appreciation the development of the standardized best practices toolkit on gender and policing in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to disseminate the existing gender training tools to Member States, and encourages Member States to make full use of them, as appropriate. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide written information to the Committee on the implementation of the training strategy and its impact in the field.

168. The Special Committee also notes with appreciation the dissemination of the standardized training curriculum for police officers on investigating and preventing sexual and gender-based violence, including through train-the-trainer courses, and encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to disseminate the training curriculum through such courses. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to use modern technology, as appropriate, to facilitate the dissemination of its standardized training curriculum to peacekeeping training institutions.

into practice and provide a briefing on the status of this issue before the next substantive session of the Committee.

95. The Special Committee notes with interest the cooperation among United Nations field missions, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and INTERPOL. In this regard, the Special Committee notes the progress in building the capabilities of host nations to address transnational organized crime, including the successful activities held within the West African Coast Initiative.

96. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/697), and the subsequent approval for the position of Criminal Information Analysis Officer in the Police Division, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/271. The Special Committee requests an updated briefing from the Secretariat on this subject before the start of its next substantive session.

4. Doctrine and terminology

97. The Special Committee continues to recognize that peacekeeping operations have become more complex and as such, a common understanding of terminology is required in order to promote common approaches and cooperation. The Special Committee believes that further work on documents related to United Nations peacekeeping should take due account of the views of Member States and be the subject of a thorough and comprehensive consideration in the Special Committee.

98. The Special Committee recognizes the vital role played by military and police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee further acknowledges that the specific roles of troops and police in peacekeeping operations, and likewise, the needs of troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries, can be distinct. Accordingly, in its report, the Special Committee continues to use the terms "troop-contributing countries" and "police-contributing countries" separately or together, depending on the context.

G. Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations

1. General

99. The Special Committee recalls the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/ Department of Field Support non-paper entitled "A new partnership agenda: charting the new horizon for United Nations peacekeeping", and in this context, takes note of the second progress report of December 2011. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to further engage with Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, on matters relating to peacekeeping operations.

100. The Special Committee reiterates that there is no one-size-fits-all model for multidimensional peacekeeping operations and that each mission should take into account the needs of the country concerned. Such needs should be ascertained at the earliest possible stages of mission planning, through consultation with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

101. The Special Committee stresses that lasting progress on security, national reconciliation, human rights, the rule of law and sustainable development needs to occur in parallel, given the interconnected nature of those challenges in countries emerging from conflict.

102. The Special Committee, recalling the presidential statement of 11 February 2011 (S/PRST/2011/4), notes that successful implementation of the many tasks that peacekeeping operations could be mandated to undertake in the areas of security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; rule of law; and human rights, requires an understanding of, and action based on a perspective that takes into account, the close interlinkage between security and development.

103. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations need to be complemented with activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the affected populations, including quick implementation of highly effective and visible projects that help to create jobs and deliver basic social services in the post-conflict phase. Such activities need to be carried out in full acknowledgement of the primary responsibility of the Governments of the host countries to provide for their citizens, and must take care not to undermine efforts aimed at building the capacity of host Governments to fulfil this role.

104. The Special Committee stresses that the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, in cooperation with national authorities, should develop and engage in appropriate coordination mechanisms that focus on immediate needs as well as long-term reconstruction and poverty reduction. The Special Committee recognizes that better coordination among peacekeeping operations and United Nations country teams and the various development actors is of paramount importance in ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of critical peacebuilding tasks and in addressing urgent development needs.

105. The Special Committee underlines that establishing security, strengthening the rule of law, restoring critical infrastructure, revitalizing the economy and creating jobs, restarting basic services and building national capacity constitute crucial elements for the long-term development of post-conflict societies and for generating a sustainable peace.

106. The Special Committee recognizes the important role of civil affairs officers in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including through cross-mission representation monitoring and facilitation at the local level, support to confidence-building, conflict management and reconciliation and support to restoration and extension of State authority. The Special Committee notes that successful implementation of many peacekeeping mandates requires consistent engagement with the local government and population and stresses that the inclusion of local staff in civil affairs components has been important. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue ongoing efforts to support the work of civil affairs officers, and requests that it continue to be informed of progress in this area.

107. The Special Committee stresses the need to strengthen the coordination among the mission, the United Nations country team and other United Nations bodies, including in addressing unexpected emergencies, such as natural and man-made disasters.

108. The Special Committee encourages Member States, particularly those represented on the governance structures of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to promote coherence where United Nations peacekeeping operations are deployed alongside United Nations country teams.

109. The Special Committee welcomes the important work done by peacekeeping missions in support of urgent needs of the countries where they operate and encourages the missions, within their mandates, to make full use of all existing means and capabilities.

2. Peacebuilding issues and the Peacebuilding Commission

110. The Special Committee reaffirms the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to plan and conduct United Nations peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, the prevention of the recurrence of armed conflicts and progress towards sustainable peace and development. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for a coordinated strategic assessment and planning process of peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities in order to ensure an integrated and coherent approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and sustainable peace. In this regard, the Special Committee underlines the importance of effective coordination among the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department of Political Affairs, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, and non-United Nations partners in the planning and implementation of peacebuilding efforts, building on their respective strengths, particularly at the early stage of United Nations engagement in post-conflict situations. The Special Committee recognizes that peacekeeping operations with multidimensional tasks and mandates should incorporate a peacebuilding perspective, through an integrated and holistic approach to post-conflict peacebuilding. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for peacebuilding tasks that are incorporated in peacekeeping missions' mandates to contribute to longer-term peacebuilding and sustainable development. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the need for closer coordination among peacekeeping missions, the United Nations country teams and other development actors.

111. The Special Committee notes the important role that peacekeeping missions play in peacebuilding, both in supporting critical tasks and in enabling others, through supporting countries in developing critical peacebuilding priorities and strategies, by helping to create an enabling environment in which national and international actors can undertake these efforts, and by implementing certain early peacebuilding tasks themselves, in order to help countries establish the foundations of peace, reduce the risk of relapse into conflict and establish conditions for recovery and development. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the explicit definition and clear identification of peacebuilding activities in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate, and of their helping to lay the foundations for longer-term peacebuilding and sustainable peace and development. The Special Committee recognizes the need to support national Governments in their peacebuilding efforts in immediate post-conflict environments, and emphasizes that specific peacebuilding tasks undertaken by peacekeeping missions should be based on the priorities of the country concerned, the specific context and the comparative advantages of the peacekeeping operation relative to other actors on the ground. In this regard, the Special Committee notes the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support paper on

the role of peacekeepers in early peacebuilding. The Special Committee looks forward to the further development and updating of the strategy, in close consultation with all Member States, particularly troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries, the Peacebuilding Commission, field missions and all other relevant actors in the United Nations.

112. The Special Committee notes the statements by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) and 20 February 2001 (S/PRST/2001/5) with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peacebuilding elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase and preventing the recurrence or continuation of armed conflict. The Special Committee also notes the statement by the President of the Council on 22 July 2009 (S/PRST/2009/23) with regard to the importance of early consideration of peacebuilding activities in the Council's own deliberations and ensuring coherence among peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development so as to ensure achievement of an early and effective response to post-conflict situations. The Special Committee also notes the statement made by the President of the Council on 21 January 2011 (S/PRST/2011/2) with regard to the Council's commitment to continuing to improve its consideration of and reflection on early peacebuilding tasks related to institution-building. The Special Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peacebuilding activities. The Special Committee also underlines the urgency of ensuring that development perspectives are integrated in peacebuilding efforts in countries emerging from conflict.

113. The Special Committee underlines the critical importance of effective integration between the United Nations peacekeeping operation and the United Nations country team, so that clarity exists on the respective roles and responsibilities of each for the delivery of critical peacebuilding needs, building on their respective strength and capacities. In addition, the Special Committee emphasizes the need for progress in clarifying roles and responsibilities in the field and at Headquarters, in order to ensure a more predictable and accountable response. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to continue efforts to clarify roles and responsibilities for critical peacebuilding tasks and requests consultations with Member States on the progress and status of these efforts.

114. The Special Committee reaffirms that national ownership is the fundamental principle with which international engagement should be aligned. In this regard, the Special Committee underlines the importance of dialogue, information-sharing and cooperation between countries affected by conflict and takes note of steps that they have taken to strengthen national ownership and improve the quality of international support. The Special Committee underlines the need to formulate peacebuilding strategies and programmes that build upon host-country strategies and stresses the important role that the United Nations can play in helping national authorities to develop coherent national peacebuilding objectives and strategies as well as in helping to mobilize international support for them.

115. The Special Committee underlines the importance of the Integrated Mission Planning Process and the Integrated Strategic Framework as mechanisms designed to help coordinate and prioritize the activities undertaken by the United Nations, and the need for all actors engaged in peacekeeping and related peacebuilding efforts to coordinate closely, in particular with host countries.

116. The Special Committee reiterates that support provided to countries emerging from conflict requires a focus on ensuring that their Governments have the capacities which they require. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on civilian capacities in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/66/311-S/2011/527) and of the Secretary-General's proposals in partnership with Member States and other relevant stakeholders. The Special Committee encourages the United Nations system to work with national Governments, regional and subregional organizations to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian expertise for peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict, including from countries with relevant experience in post-conflict peacebuilding or democratic transition, giving particular attention to mobilizing capacities from developing countries and from women.

117. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, drawing on the work of relevant United Nations bodies and entities such as the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office, and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and their growing link with regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions, and, taking into consideration their comparative advantages, explore partnership opportunities that support peacekeeping operations' mandated peacebuilding tasks.

118. The Special Committee underlines the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in developing, in consultation with national Governments, integrated peacebuilding strategies and marshalling resources for their implementation, as well as its efforts to ensure fulfilment of mutual commitments on the part of relevant stakeholders, enhance the coordination of relevant actors on the ground and promote dialogue on cross-cutting peacebuilding issues and lessons learned from past experience. The Special Committee takes note of the role that the Peacebuilding Support Office should play in promoting greater coherence and synergies between the different parts of the United Nations system and other relevant actors outside the United Nations system. The Special Committee recommends that the Peacebuilding Commission, with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office, further explore opportunities for partnerships in post-conflict situations with international financial institutions, as well as regional arrangements.

119. The Special Committee underlines the importance of close collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and peacekeeping operations in helping to support the delivery of their respective mandates and helping to contribute to a smooth transition from a United Nations peacekeeping operation. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the continued interaction between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, including the provision of timely advice to support the Council's deliberations on mandated peacebuilding tasks related to countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, where applicable, upon the request of the Security Council, emphasizing that these tasks should respond to nationally identified priorities and should be focused on developing national capacities. The Special Committee also welcomes the Council's readiness to make greater use of the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission.

120. The Special Committee recalls the presidential statement of 12 February 2010 (S/PRST/2010/2) and notes the efforts of the Security Council to improve its practices in order to ensure successful transitions from peacekeeping operations to other configurations of a United Nations presence. The Special Committee

welcomes the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to capture lessons learned on the transition from peacekeeping operations, and encourages the incorporation of best practices from ongoing transition efforts. In this regard, the Special Committee looks forward to further clarification on how those lessons can be applied in the future, noting the possible role that the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes may play, while keeping an emphasis on active host-nation ownership and engagement.

121. The Special Committee notes the importance of any transition process being thoroughly planned and coordinated between the Secretariat and relevant partners. Such coordination must take place well in advance of the commencement of transition, to ensure the sustainability of the progress achieved, while taking into account the most efficient and effective allocation of roles and responsibilities.

122. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue ongoing efforts requested in paragraph 112 of the previous report of the Committee (A/65/19), with respect to the socioeconomic impact of peacekeeping operations within mission mandates and established United Nations rules and regulations. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide information on best practices and, where appropriate, proposals, developed in consultation with Member States, in particular the troop-contributing countries, for consideration in the appropriate intergovernmental bodies and also requests a briefing on this issue at its next session.

123. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an update at its next session on the steps being taken to make the peacebuilding roles of peacekeeping missions more effective. The Special Committee suggests that representatives of other actors involved in peacebuilding, including the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, be invited to participate at this briefing.

124. The Special Committee acknowledges the interlinkages that need to be forged between the various peacebuilding sectors, entailing sustained and coordinated responses. In this respect, the Special Committee looks forward to the progress report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict in 2012 and emphasizes the need for further progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2010 report in order to demonstrate improved delivery on the ground.

125. The Special Committee recalls with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466). The Special Committee encourages measures to ensure women's participation and the provision of gender expertise in peace processes, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding, and in post-conflict public institutions, and to ensure women's equal involvement in programmes created to support economic recovery.

3. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

126. The Special Committee stresses that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes have to be nationally owned and drafted according to national priorities. The Special Committee stresses that DDR programmes remain strategically crucial components of peacekeeping operations and longer-term peacebuilding and that their success depends upon the political will and concerted

effort of all parties. The Special Committee requests that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration be firmly established within a political process and that all actors be prepared for involvement in a multi-year programme to ensure a successful and effective transition from disarmament and demobilization to reintegration. The Special Committee recognizes that the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is evolving to meet new and emerging challenges and varying national circumstances and that DDR programmes should be tailored to national circumstances so as to ensure consistency with national strategies, while being mindful of the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and their dependants, as well as children affected by armed conflict and the disabled. In this regard, the Special Committee emphasizes the need to ensure full implementation of the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) gender guidelines.

127. Emphasizing the need for balanced implementation of all components of DDR, the importance of enhanced coordination and integration among United Nations entities, and stressing the mutually reinforcing nature of security sector reform and DDR processes, the Special Committee requests that a comprehensive assessment be carried out in this regard, to be reported to the Committee at its next substantive session. This report should incorporate perspectives from the field and Headquarters on United Nations efforts to support national processes, with a view to strengthening the coordination, synergies and integrated approach to DDR programmes.

128. The Special Committee underlines the importance of building synergies between security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration from the outset during the planning and implementation of peacekeeping operations.

129. The Special Committee recognizes the need for managing weapons collected from ex-combatants while implementing DDR programmes. The Special Committee, in this regard, urges the Secretariat to build upon the best practices and innovative approaches from the field and urges peacekeeping operations to provide support to post-conflict countries, when applicable.

130. The Special Committee underlines the importance of ensuring that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are designed in accordance with national priorities and the specific context of each country. In this regard, the Special Committee commends the efforts to find innovative approaches to addressing the new and emerging challenges faced by peacekeeping operations, in order to support the national implementation of peace processes, build trust, contribute to the creation of a secure environment and help build the foundation for durable peace and development, as described in the study on Second-Generation DDR produced by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee takes note of recent DDR initiatives, including the approach aimed at reducing community violence. The Special Committee urges that further development of the approach should be carried out in a balanced manner across all DDR components.

131. The Special Committee recalls the Secretary-General's report on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (A/65/741) and stresses the fact that reintegration is an essential part of the entire DDR process. In this regard, the Special Committee notes the critical role of peacekeeping missions in support of national Governments, including in developing reintegration strategies that also incorporate innovative

approaches and practices from the field. The Special Committee further notes that reintegration is a long-term process and therefore emphasizes the potential of community-based approaches in a larger reintegration strategy and the importance of multi-year programmes.

132. The Special Committee notes the importance of the reintegration of ex-combatants and the linkages between the DDR processes and peace processes and, in this regard, requests that the further development of strategies continues to be undertaken in close consultations with Member States, the Peacebuilding Commission and other relevant actors.

133. The Special Committee notes the need for greater use of existing mechanisms, such as temporary assignments, between the Secretariat and agencies, funds and programmes involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, so as to increase the availability of relevant staff at critical early stages, and ensure their timely arrival on the ground to support the design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on civilian capacities in the aftermath of conflict (A/66/311-S/2011/527).

4. Security sector reform

134. The Special Committee emphasizes that security sector reform is an important aspect of multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is one of the critical elements for laying the foundations for durable peace and development, including economic recovery, and for the sustainable transition from a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

135. The Special Committee notes that the General Assembly has a relevant role to play in the development of an overarching United Nations approach to security sector reform. The Special Committee, in particular, is able to make a significant contribution in the area of security sector reform in United Nations peacekeeping.

136. The Special Committee stresses that security sector reform must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law and should contribute to the overall strengthening of United Nations rule-of-law activities in field missions, taking into account the fact that United Nations activities and structures should not be duplicative. The Special Committee underlines the importance of integrated planning and implementation to ensure consistency and coherence in the United Nations and encourages the enhancement of such coordination both at Headquarters and in the field. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring effective integration as regards sector-wide and component levels of United Nations support both in the field and at Headquarters. The Special Committee takes note of the African Union-United Nations partnership on security sector reform and welcomes the efforts of the African Union to develop a policy framework on security sector reform for the African context.

137. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Unit since its establishment in 2009, and the work being done through its leadership of the Secretary-General's Inter-agency SSR Task Force and engagement with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. The Special Committee takes note of the increasing demands placed on the SSR Unit in

respect of supporting United Nations missions in the field and, in this regard, encourages the United Nations Secretariat, funds, agencies and programmes to explore ways to enhance the capacity of the SSR Unit.

138. The Special Committee underlines the fact that security sector reform is a nationally owned process and that the engagement of the United Nations in providing assistance for security sector reform through peacekeeping missions should be undertaken at the request of the host country, and that such assistance should be rooted in its particular needs and conditions. It is the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities for security sector reform, recognizing that successful, sustainable and nationally owned security sector reform requires focused efforts and the concerted political will of all parties, including the host country and international partners. The Special Committee recognizes the important role that the United Nations, in close cooperation with bilateral and regional arrangements, can play in the provision of technical assistance to State authorities, where requested and in accordance with specific needs. Such assistance can be delivered in a variety of areas, including national security sector strategies; security sector legislation; security sector reviews; national security sector development plans; national dialogue on security sector reform; and national management and oversight capacities, as well as to national coordination bodies for security sector reform, taking into consideration other areas, as requested by the host country.

139. The Special Committee takes note of the development of guidance in a number of areas, related to security sector reform. In this regard, the Special Committee continues to encourage the Secretariat to elaborate guidance on all aspects of security sector reform and stresses the importance of developing such guidance on the basis of lessons learned, best practices and regular consultations with Member States. The Special Committee requests the SSR Unit to continue to provide briefings on the development of such guidance, as well as on its activities, in particular on the support provided to missions in the field.

140. The Special Committee takes note of the development of the policy paper on defence sector reform, as requested by Member States. The Special Committee encourages the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions and the Office of Military Affairs to continue engaging in consultations with Member States on the policy paper.

141. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of United Nations entities and field missions in supporting national Governments to develop security institutions that are accessible and responsive to the needs of their citizens, including women and vulnerable groups. The Special Committee recognizes the positive role that United Nations entities and field missions can play in promoting gender-sensitive security sector reforms and supporting the development of national security sector institutions that are more responsive to women's needs through, for example, the deployment of female peacekeeping personnel which can be a means of encouraging more women to serve in the reformed security sector of the host Government, through the provision of gender expertise in support of security sector reform processes, and through the incorporation of gender perspectives in security sector reform programmes.

142. The Special Committee stresses that the sustainability of security sector reform depends on national ownership and the sustained support of the international

community, in particular bilateral donors. The United Nations and the international community should avoid imposing external models of security sector reform and concentrate on strengthening the capacity of the host country to develop, manage and implement security sector reform through inclusive and broad national consultation processes at all stages, including with civil society. The Special Committee believes that the United Nations approach to security sector reform must be flexible, adaptable and tailored to the host country concerned.

143. The Special Committee reaffirms its support for the development of a United Nations roster of senior security sector reform experts. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the support provided through the roster to Member States and peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee underlines the need for greater efforts by the SSR Unit to ensure that the roster adequately reflects capacities in developing countries, particularly from those regions not currently represented. The Special Committee requests that the SSR Unit provide further analysis of the roster's performance in its 2013 session.

144. The Special Committee underlines the importance of security sector reform training and capacity-building, where mandated, and welcomes efforts in this regard by the SSR Unit and, numerous Member States and through international organizations.

5. Rule of law

145. The Special Committee emphasizes the critical importance of strengthening the rule of law in countries emerging from conflict in order to help stabilize the situation, end impunity, tackle the underlying causes of conflict and build lasting peace. The Special Committee acknowledges that success in the restoration of and respect for the rule of law depends upon the political will and concerted effort of all parties.

146. The Special Committee underlines the important role that peacekeeping operations, together with United Nations country teams, as appropriate, can play in helping to support the initial strengthening of a country's rule-of-law institutions, in a coordinated manner, within the scope of their respective mandates. The Special Committee notes the role that peacekeeping operations and the United Nations country teams, in a coordinated manner, within the scope of their respective mandates, can play in post-conflict situations in helping national authorities develop critical rule-of-law priorities and strategies and supporting the coordination of national and international action in addressing them.

147. The Special Committee calls on the Secretariat and peacekeeping operations to ensure the implementation of the commitments, contained in the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466), to a United Nations approach to a rule of law that promotes women's rights to security and justice and, in particular, to the provision of immediate support for women's and girls' access to justice and law enforcement institutions.

148. The Special Committee recognizes that it is key to ensuring sustainable peace, that the approach to the various rule-of-law components, including access to justice, be integrated, provide balanced attention and support, be relevant to each specific situation, and address the needs of police, judicial institutions and corrections systems, and the critical linkages between them. The Special Committee underlines

the importance of peacekeeping operations and other partners in supporting the strengthening of justice and corrections structures, in conjunction with the development of police services, in order to build a coherent and comprehensive justice system that supports a State's ability to provide critical functions in these fields.

149. The Special Committee recognizes that creating and sustaining stability in a post-conflict environment requires that the causes of the conflict be addressed and that national and local rule-of-law capacities be assessed, restored and enhanced, as appropriate, from the very beginning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls the importance of respect for the rule of law as a vital contribution to building peace and justice and ending impunity.

150. The Special Committee reiterates the need for greater clarity and specificity in United Nations peacekeeping mandates on rule-of-law issues and requests that, where mandated, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to ensure that the rule of law and transitional justice are integrated into the strategic and operational planning of peacekeeping operations. Such a mandate should be fully implemented to strengthen and ensure national ownership, while recognizing that responsibility for the restoration of and respect for the rule of law lies with Governments and relevant national actors, including civil society.

151. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of the provision of holistic and integrated rule-of-law assistance to host countries from the very outset of the establishment of new peacekeeping missions. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the contribution made by the now fully operational Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity, in co-location with the Standing Police Capacity, in several peacekeeping contexts. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on civilian capacities in the aftermath of conflict. The Special Committee takes note of the update on the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity provided by the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, as was requested in the previous report of the Committee (A/65/19). In this regard, the Special Committee further requests that future updates continue to report on the extent to which the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity has been able to meet demand for capacity in the rule-of-law sector. The Special Committee takes note of the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned update regarding capacity constraints in the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity. The Special Committee requests an assessment and review of the work and impact of the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service of the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, and of the work and impact of the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity, to be completed by January 2013. In this regard, the Special Committee reaffirms the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 61/279, 63/250 and 65/247.

152. The Special Committee recognizes the growing demand for police, rule-of-law, security sector reform, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration functions within peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee notes the existing use of rosters of civilian experts, seconded national justice and correction officials, the Prosecution Support Cells and the use of the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity to help provide adequate rule-of-law capacities. The Special Committee calls on the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to draw upon capacities available from the Governments of Member States

through secondments, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and through existing rosters of rapidly deployable experts, at the request of the host country and in close coordination with existing host countries' capabilities, with a view to building national capacities. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of the rapidly deployable rule-of-law team of experts on sexual violence as an innovative model to support the needs of host countries, at their request, and underlines the need for this to adequately reflect the capacities from developing countries.

153. The Special Committee notes the importance of the ongoing development of guidance material for operational rule-of-law issues, and requests the Secretariat to brief Member States whenever development of such material is initiated and to provide regular information on progress.

154. The Special Committee recognizes the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as a lead entity, where mandated, in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee reiterates the need to enhance cooperation and coordination among all relevant United Nations actors, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, in order to ensure a holistic and coherent United Nations approach to the rule of law, and to ensure effective integration in the planning and delivery of rule-of-law assistance. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to continue efforts to clarify roles and responsibilities within the rule-of-law sector, based on the comparative advantages of relevant parts of the United Nations system, and requests consultations with Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies.

155. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to enhance the capacity of its judicial affairs and corrections personnel so as to maximize the impact of their efforts in support of national rule-of-law institutions. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the ongoing development and piloting of the United Nations unified Rule of Law Training and the delivery of the Rule of Law Training for Judicial Affairs Officers, the predeployment training course for seconded corrections officers, and other specialized training courses for judicial affairs and corrections officers deployed to peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee, in this regard, further requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to report to the Special Committee on the status of the judicial and corrections capacities in the field.

156. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the activities by the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, and looks forward to considering the written analysis provided by the Office on how its work contributes to closer coherence and synergies among its own sections and between other United Nations actors to deliver mandates that include rule-of-law elements more effectively.

157. The Special Committee notes the important steps that have been taken to increase the attention to and resources available for corrections work in peacekeeping operations, where mandated, in close cooperation with the authorities of the host country. Specifically, the Committee recognizes the importance of further expanding the number of countries that contribute corrections officers so as to enable the Secretariat to respond to emerging situations on the ground.

169. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to include gender expertise in technical assessment missions in order to ensure that a gender perspective is taken into account in the planning of new missions and the review of existing ones.

170. The Special Committee continues to underline the gravity of all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and stresses the importance of addressing, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of all victims of such acts. The Special Committee reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to continue the systematic inclusion in the Secretary-General's written reports on situations of which the Security Council is seized, observations and recommendations with regard to the issue of sexual violence and the protection of women and girls. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the completion of the guidance on the establishment of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including rape, in situations relevant to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1888 (2009), as appropriate. The Special Committee calls on the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and all relevant field missions to effectively support the swift operationalization of these arrangements, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations actors, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. The Special Committee further emphasizes that approaches to data collection and reporting should adhere to safe and ethical practices and maintain the dignity of the victims at all times, as called for in the statement by the President of the Security Council dated 23 February 2012 (S/PRST/2012/3).

171. The Special Committee takes note of the elaboration of the terms of reference of the women's protection advisers. The Special Committee recognizes that the women's protection advisers are important in the operationalization of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements and calls for their early identification and deployment, as also called for by the Security Council in its resolutions 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010), in all relevant field missions. The Special Committee requests an update on the deployment and work of women's protection advisers in all relevant field missions by October 2012.

172. The Special Committee appreciates the analytical inventory of peacekeeping practice and the finalization and use of scenario-based training modules entitled "Prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence: scenario-based training for military peacekeepers", and encourages the continuation of this work, in cooperation with all relevant United Nations actors, and urges troop- and police-contributing countries to make full use of the training materials. The Special Committee welcomes the update of the training programmes for military, police and civilian peacekeeping personnel, which now include operational guidance on protecting women and girls from sexual violence, and urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure the effective use of the operational guidance on the prevention of, protection from and response to sexual violence in conflict. The Special Committee requests information on the implementation and impact of the operational guidance in the field.

173. The Special Committee welcomes the initiative to develop and pilot preventive mechanisms on sexual violence, with a view to its use in all relevant field missions,

as appropriate, and looks forward to a presentation of the initiative to the Committee for its consideration.

174. The Special Committee appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to implement the Guidelines on Integrating a Gender Perspective into the work of the United Nations Military in Peacekeeping Operations, in accordance with the implementation strategy, including through the existing gender advisers and the designation of military gender advisers and an associate expert on gender in the Office of Military Affairs. The Special Committee requests information from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and in particular the Office of Military Affairs, on the implementation of and level of compliance with the Guidelines, and their impact on the work of the military component in the various peacekeeping missions.

175. The Special Committee underlines the importance of the mandate and commends the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in carrying out her mandate in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and peacekeeping missions to provide all necessary cooperation and support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, including through the full and timely channelling of information from the field to Headquarters, and coordinate closely with other relevant United Nations actors including UN-Women, in support of their respective mandates. The Special Committee renews its invitation to the Special Representative to provide a briefing to the Committee on her work, prior to its next substantive session, and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to invite the Special Representative to provide briefings at mission-specific meetings organized by the Department with troop- and police-contributing countries, as appropriate.

7. Children and peacekeeping

176. The Special Committee recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat on the issue of children and peacekeeping and reaffirms General Assembly resolutions 66/139 and 66/141 and all previous resolutions adopted under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children" and Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011). The Special Committee reaffirms the important role being played by child protection advisers in peacekeeping missions and their direct reporting lines to senior mission leadership, in accordance with the policy directive on mainstreaming the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict. The Special Committee recommends the inclusion, where appropriate, of specific child protection provisions in peacekeeping mandates and encourages the deployment of child protection advisers in all relevant peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to include child protection expertise in technical assessment missions. The Special Committee reiterates the need to ensure continued collaboration among the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including through its designated focal point for child protection, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, particularly the United Nations Children's

Fund (UNICEF), to ensure coherent and effective child protection by the United Nations system.

177. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in mainstreaming child protection into peacekeeping missions and welcomes the finalization of the implementation plan for the policy directive on mainstreaming the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict and requests a briefing during the coming year on the results on the ground of the implementation plan of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee requests the Department to provide written information on the impact, best practices, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of the policy, to contribute to its review before the next substantive session of the Committee in 2013.

178. The Special Committee affirms the importance of continuing to ensure that all peacekeeping personnel receive adequate training on child protection and child rights in order to strengthen the protection of children in conflict and post-conflict situations. The Special Committee also notes with appreciation the efforts to update training programmes and materials, all of which are critical to ensuring that there is an effective and comprehensive response, including preventive measures, with respect to child protection. The Special Committee welcomes the development of standardized training modules on child protection for all categories of peacekeeping personnel and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to make them available, and encourages troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as all regional and national peacekeeping training centres, to make full use of them, as appropriate.

179. The Special Committee continues to underscore the important role of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions, within their respective mandates, in supporting the implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanisms on children and armed conflict as foreseen in Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011), in close consultation with the countries concerned, and appreciates the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and field missions to continue to provide all necessary support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and closely collaborate with them on the monitoring and reporting mechanisms as key components of overall child protection efforts. The Special Committee recognizes the important role of relevant United Nations bodies and civil society actors in this regard. The Special Committee invites the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to brief the Committee prior to its next substantive session and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operation to invite the Special Representative to provide briefings at mission-specific meetings organized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with troop- and police-contributing countries, as appropriate.

8. HIV and other health-related issues and peacekeeping

180. The Special Committee notes with concern that health-related issues, including cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, are still among the leading causes of fatalities in the field.

181. The Special Committee reiterates its belief that the United Nations should set the highest possible medical standards in protecting peacekeepers in the field from infectious diseases and protecting both peacekeepers and the local population from HIV/AIDS. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the important work undertaken by HIV/AIDS advisers and focal points in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee continues to underscore the responsibility of troop-contributing countries for ensuring appropriate medical examination and clearance of all United Nations personnel from national contingents in accordance with the medical guidelines for peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to strengthen their efforts to harmonize predeployment and in-country awareness programmes, and to ensure the strict application of United Nations guidelines on medical clearance and medical conditions that preclude deployment. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the importance of training all United Nations peacekeeping personnel on medical risks in the mission area in accordance with the guidelines provided, and recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Support and the Department of Field Support, including through in-mission induction training and peer education, which have resulted in a decrease in the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS.

182. The Special Committee reiterates the request contained in paragraph 163 of its previous report, namely that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to provide an annual detailed briefing to the Special Committee on the progress made in dealing with health-related issues in peacekeeping operations and in this regard, looks forward to receiving, in advance of its next substantive session, information on the causes and rates of cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, injuries and fatalities in the field, as well as on the status of the implementation of the system for the standardized and streamlined reporting of medical data, across United Nations peacekeeping missions, which are to include, inter alia, repatriation and mortality data.

183. The Special Committee recognizes the ongoing efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to consolidate, standardize and streamline medical data, including through the use of its electronic medical records and occupational health management system, EarthMed. The Special Committee is encouraged by the increasing implementation of EarthMed, and looks forward to full implementation across all peacekeeping operations by authorized medical staff.

184. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to develop guidelines and policies on occupational health, as one possible means of reducing illness and injuries, and enhancing the safety and well-being of peacekeeping personnel in the field. The Special Committee reiterates its request for information regarding progress in this regard, including results of the implementation of occupational health guidelines in the field and any resultant decrease in illness and injury.

9. Quick-impact projects

185. The Special Committee welcomes the implementation of quick-impact projects by peacekeeping operations and continues to recognize the important contribution they make to the successful implementation of mandates by addressing the

immediate needs of local populations and building confidence in, and support for, peacekeeping missions, their mandates and the peace processes. The Special Committee recognizes that quick-impact projects play a key role in the implementation of a comprehensive mission strategy and in strengthening the link between missions and local populations and in the accomplishment of their objectives, and that their implementation should take into account the situation and needs on the ground.

186. The Special Committee calls for the full implementation of section XVIII of General Assembly resolution 61/276, and stresses that quick-impact projects are an integral part of both mission planning and the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to meet the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations.

187. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of coordination with humanitarian and development partners so as to prevent duplication and overlap of activities between peacekeeping missions and humanitarian and development partners in the field.

188. The Special Committee appreciates the voluntary and additional contributions of contingents from troop- and police-contributing countries in funding projects in peacekeeping missions.

189. The Special Committee reiterates its recommendation that selection procedures for quick-impact projects be made flexible and be addressed, at the field level, under the control of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. It emphasizes the need for these projects to be planned and managed in the most effective manner possible.

190. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made by the Secretariat in revising the Policy Directive for Quick-Impact Projects, as requested in paragraph 142 of its 2010 report (A/64/19), taking into account all relevant aspects, and requests the Secretariat to ensure that relevant guidance provided to peacekeepers on this issue is coherent with the revised Policy Directive. The Special Committee also welcomes efforts being made by the Secretariat to provide training to mission personnel involved in the management of quick-impact projects and strongly encourages their continuation.

10. Other mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians

191. The Special Committee reaffirms that all mandated peacekeeping tasks are to be implemented in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations. Such implementation should be supported by a comprehensive peace process involving all stakeholders, underpinned by national ownership and the support of the international community. The Special Committee recognizes that there are a range of important mandated tasks, including, but not limited to, support for the restoration and extension of State authority, support for political processes, and protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians. The Special Committee stresses the key importance of close cooperation with national authorities in the implementation of mandated tasks, as appropriate. In this regard, the Special Committee emphasizes that priority should continue to be given to the

promotion of knowledge of, respect for and observance by, all States and other relevant actors, as appropriate, of their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and other international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

192. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the effective and full implementation of mandates and also stresses the need for close cooperation among the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat so as to ensure that peacekeeping mandates are well defined and achievable. Accordingly, United Nations peacekeeping missions must be provided with all the necessary resources in a timely and efficient manner. These should include consolidated and mission-specific training, based on lessons learned and best practices from United Nations peacekeeping missions and Member States, in all related operational matters so as to enhance operational capacity.

193. The Special Committee stresses the need for a clear assessment of the adequacy of the human and material resources and capabilities that are available to the missions with mandates for the protection of civilians and the ability of the mission to fully implement the mandate. The Special Committee reaffirms that United Nations peacekeeping operations with this mandate must be provided with the necessary resources and training to carry out that task, including personnel, mobility assets and capabilities for information-gathering. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the progress on the resources and capability matrix for implementation of protection-of-civilian mandates in United Nations peacekeeping operations as a reference tool for identifying the resources and capabilities required for implementation of tasks relating to the protection of civilians, where mandated. The Special Committee underlines the need for continued consideration of the matrix by all relevant actors, including Member States, troop- and police-contributing countries and field missions, based on developments in the field and lessons learned, as it undergoes further development.

194. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue, on an ongoing basis, to submit proposals to improve the ability of existing peacekeeping missions to respond to situations adversely affecting civilians, including all the necessary logistical support and training required for troop-contributing countries.

195. The Special Committee acknowledges that the protection of civilians is currently mandated in a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee recognizes that protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the host country and, accordingly, emphasizes that relevant peacekeeping missions with this mandate should conduct their tasks without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians. The Special Committee also acknowledges that the successful conduct of tasks relating to the protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence and within the effective areas of deployment, wherever a United Nations mandate exists, requires a coordinated response from all relevant mission components. The Special Committee continues to recognize that it is important for all peacekeeping missions with protection of civilians-mandates to develop or update, as appropriate, comprehensive protection strategies for incorporation in the overall mission implementation plans and contingency plans in consultation with the host Government, local authorities, troop- and police-contributing countries, and other relevant actors and requests those that have not yet carried out this task, to do so.

196. The Special Committee takes note of the Framework for the Drafting of Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Strategies in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations as a practical tool for the development of mission-wide protection strategies. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the dissemination of the Framework to peacekeeping missions and encourages peacekeeping missions to continue referring to the Framework, where appropriate, to develop and update comprehensive mission-wide protection strategies. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue consulting with Member States, including troop- and police-contributing countries, field personnel and all relevant actors on the Framework in order to continue to improve it, based on developments in the field and lessons learned, with due consideration of the full range of views of Member States. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide an update on the progress made in this regard.

197. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of evaluating and reporting by Missions on all mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of mission-specific benchmarks against which peacekeeping missions should report on the implementation of their mandates.

198. The Special Committee notes existing measures developed by various peacekeeping missions at the operational level to implement protection of civilian mandates. The Special Committee recognizes the need for baseline guidance on the protection of civilians, from which peacekeeping missions would develop their own mission-specific guidance. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to pursue efforts in close consultation and with the participation of the missions to address their needs for further operational guidance on the protection of civilians and requests an update in this regard before its next session.

199. The Special Committee recognizes the continuing need for effective routine assessment of the protection of civilian strategies being implemented by peacekeeping missions, taking into consideration the views of the relevant actors, including Member States, the host country, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat, involved in the development of the strategies.

200. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of improving planning processes as well as training modules for all mandated tasks, including protection of civilians, for peacekeeping personnel, including senior mission leadership before and during deployment, based on lessons learned from past and existing peacekeeping missions and case analysis. The Special Committee recognizes progress and takes note with appreciation of the dissemination of the protection-of-civilians training modules entitled "Protection of civilians and prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence", and notes the ongoing work regarding predeployment and scenario-based training modules for peacekeeping personnel and their senior mission leadership. The Special Committee takes note of the work conducted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support to ensure that Headquarters and in-mission planning processes, including the concept of operations, address protection of civilians in a consistent manner.

201. The Special Committee encourages peacekeeping training centres to draw on the protection-of-civilians training modules, as appropriate, in their peacekeeping training programmes and encourages the Secretariat to continue consulting with troop and police contributors so as to allow them to provide feedback on the

effectiveness of the modules. The Special Committee requests an update prior to its next substantive session on how these training materials are being implemented as part of predeployment and in-mission training, including an assessment of whether any further training needs or gaps should be addressed.

202. The Special Committee takes note of work by the Secretariat to gather lessons learned and practices on protection of civilians and encourages the Secretariat to explore ways to enhance the sharing of best practices and lessons learned across peacekeeping missions and to update Member States periodically on the work done.

203. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the mission's having the capacity to interact closely with the host Government, local authorities and the local population in order to raise awareness and understanding of its protection-of-civilians mandate and activities. To this end, the Special Committee requests peacekeeping operations with such mandates to continue engaging, through relevant mission components and in close coordination with national authorities, in public information and outreach strategies, in line with Security Council resolution 1894 (2009). In this regard, the Special Committee also notes General Assembly resolution 66/81 B. The Special Committee welcomes practices such as the fielding of joint protection teams, host-country community liaison assistants and civil affairs officers, which improve local-level analysis and assist with expectation management among the local community regarding the role and limitations of the peacekeeping mission.

204. The Special Committee recognizes that the efforts of United Nations peacekeeping are made in support of, and not as a substitute for, the efforts of the national authorities. The Special Committee acknowledges the importance for peacekeeping operations to support and build synergies and coordinate with host Governments, including at the local level, in protecting the civilian population. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing, before its next substantive session, on best practices on measures taken by peacekeeping operations to foster cooperation with the host authorities.

205. The Special Committee stresses the important role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in taking forward work on the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations, including work requested by the Committee, in a coordinated and expedient manner. The Special Committee further stresses the importance of coordination at Headquarters and in the field by all relevant United Nations actors, in accordance with their respective mandates, on issues relating to protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue improving coordination efforts at headquarters and in the field, taking into consideration the different roles and responsibilities of relevant actors. The Special Committee also encourages further coordination between the United Nations and regional arrangements, as appropriate, on issues relating to the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations.

H. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

206. The Special Committee underlines the need for full and effective implementation of the provisions contained in Security Council resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001) so as to utilize optimally those mechanisms to forge a stronger relationship between the Council and the troop-contributing countries.

207. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with troop-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any changes in the military tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational concepts or the command and control structure that would have an impact on the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, so as to enable troop-contributing countries to contribute their advice in the planning process and to ensure that their troops have the capacity to meet the new demands.

I. Triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries

208. The Special Committee acknowledges the need to enhance the important relationship among those who mandate, plan, manage and implement United Nations peacekeeping operations. Drawing on the existing and enhanced triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat in addressing the challenges of peacekeeping, the Special Committee stresses the need for this relationship to foster a spirit of partnership, cooperation, confidence and mutual trust and to ensure that the Security Council has the benefit of the views of those serving in the field when making its decisions about peacekeeping mandates. The Special Committee reiterates the necessity for troop- and police-contributing countries to be provided with comprehensive briefings by the Secretariat on a regular basis on the situation of each peacekeeping operation, and for the Secretariat to respond rapidly to requests for information by troop- and police-contributing countries on the latest developments in current operations, technical assessment missions, and in the event of a serious incident. The Special Committee recommends making optimal use of the consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries, so that their experience and expertise can assist in making appropriate, effective and timely decisions on United Nations peacekeeping operations by involving them early on and fully in all stages of peacekeeping operations, in particular in advance of the renewal, adjustment or reconfiguration of an operation by the Security Council. This will also have a positive impact on the operations of national contingents.

209. The Special Committee stresses the need to regularly assess, through consultations among the troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council, the strength and composition of the peacekeeping operations and the implementation of their mandates, with a view to making the necessary adjustments, where appropriate, according to progress achieved or changing circumstances on the ground.

210. The Special Committee recognizes the ongoing need to broaden the base of countries contributing to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to avail itself for consultations, at the request of existing and potential contributing countries, to discuss, inter alia, predeployment threat assessments, concepts of operations and rules of engagement for existing and new missions, in order to assist them before they present their pledges to those missions.

211. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop- and police-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any change in military and police tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational

concepts or command and control structure that would have an impact on the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, so as to enable troop- and police- contributing countries to contribute their advice during the planning process and to ensure that their troops have the capacity to meet the new demands.

212. The Special Committee welcomes the organization by the Presidency of the Security Council of open and inclusive thematic debates on the issues of peacekeeping and stresses the importance of optimal participation of troop- and police-contributing countries in those debates. The Special Committee notes the successful discussion in the Council during the open debate on the theme "Peacekeeping: taking stock and preparing for the future", held on 26 August 2011, and also notes the adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2011/17.

213. The Special Committee underlines the work of the Working Group of the Security Council on Peacekeeping Operations, recognizes the important ongoing practice of its interaction with troop- and police-contributing countries and expresses the need to develop a substantial interaction between the Special Committee and the Working Group.

214. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to meet reporting deadlines and circulate copies of the reports of the Secretary-General in all official languages on specific United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee takes note of the statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2011/17, in which the Council requested the Secretariat to circulate to troop- and police-contributing countries by the 15th of each month, notice and invitation of the Council's upcoming troop- and police-contributing country meetings that are anticipated to take place during the following month on individual peacekeeping mission mandates. This will enable troop- and police-contributing countries to prepare properly for the meetings and participate more fully.

215. The Special Committee welcomes the improvements effected by the Security Council in the holding of private meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries in a timely manner, and encourages those countries to participate actively in the meetings, including by providing assessments and feedback from their troops and personnel on the ground.

216. The Special Committee underlines the necessity for the Secretariat to provide the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and other key stakeholders with an early assessment of capabilities, force generation and logistical resource requirements prior to the launching of a new peacekeeping mission or a major reconfiguration of a current peacekeeping mission.

217. The Special Committee stresses the importance of regular updating, as often as necessary, of the operational documents by the Secretariat, so as to ensure consistency with mandates of the Security Council and of informing troop- and police-contributing countries about those updates, and requests the Secretariat to adopt a mission-specific approach to planning, as appropriate, and, consequently, to inform them.

218. The Special Committee welcomes the weekly Situation Centre briefing to Member States, including the valuable contribution of the Assessment Team. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable timely responses to operational questions raised by Member States in that

forum. The Special Committee also calls upon the Secretariat to disseminate notification of these briefings to members of the Committee in a timely manner.

219. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure the timely dissemination to members of the Special Committee, Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support policy papers, guidance and training documents, manuals and regulations, and requests the Secretariat to ensure, by the end of 2012, that such documentation is consolidated, updated and incorporated into a single, protected database where the information is easily accessible.

220. The Special Committee believes that predeployment visits for military contributions and assessment visits for formed police units are an important step in the process of force generation. To make better use of the current practice, the Special Committee continues to recommend that the Policy Directive and Standard Operating Procedures of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for such visits be improved and measures taken to ensure that they are adequately performed.

J. Cooperation with regional arrangements

221. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, and when the mandate and capacity of regional arrangements or agencies allow.

222. The Special Committee stresses that regional organizations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical, and other resources for their organizations, including through contributions by their members and support from partners.

223. The Special Committee recognizes the valuable work of those regional arrangements or agencies in supporting United Nations peacekeeping and in enhancing the common ability of their Member States to contribute to peacekeeping operations, including through the development of capabilities. The Special Committee acknowledges the work of the United Nations liaison offices to the African Union and the European Union in strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations and these two regional organizations and notes the ongoing work of the African Union and the European Union in support of United Nations peacekeeping. Furthermore, the Special Committee welcomes the adoption of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The Special Committee acknowledges the intent of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to consider assistance in United Nations peacekeeping activities, and welcomes the ongoing work to formalize this through the signing of a memorandum of understanding. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to seek new opportunities for engagement with other regional arrangements.

224. The Special Committee notes the Secretariat's efforts in finding new avenues to draw on partnerships with the regional arrangements that may increasingly contribute to United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee notes that these efforts have helped enhance contributions in some peacekeeping operations where

cooperation with regional arrangements has been complementary in respect of the force generation of the United Nations.

225. The Special Committee recognizes the growing importance of partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in planning and conducting United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue developing exercise and training policies with these regional arrangements aimed at improving interoperability. The Special Committee acknowledges the work being carried out by the Secretariat regarding the lessons learned from cooperation, as well as its readiness to enhance and seek new opportunities for engagement with regional arrangements on a range of issues. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to explore the possibility of exchanging relevant information aimed at improving interoperability and enhancing operational effectiveness.

K. Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities

226. The Special Committee recognizes, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the context of peacekeeping operations which has evolved at the strategic and operational levels and contributes to effective responses to conflict. The Special Committee welcomes the positive contribution and role of the African Union and subregional organizations in efforts to settle conflicts and expresses its support for the peacekeeping activities that they conduct on the African continent. The Special Committee encourages the operational partnership to continue to be based on comparative advantages, complementarity, and the optimal use of resources and capacities.

227. The Special Committee underlines the importance of addressing the requirements of the African Union in the context of peacekeeping at the continental level. In this regard, the Committee takes note of the following: the report of the African Union-United Nations panel (see A/63/666-S/2008/813); the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African cooperation in peace and security (S/2011/805), and the report of the African Union Chairperson of the Commission on the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on peace and security, as noted in Security Council resolution 2033 (2012). The Special Committee stresses the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for the African Union when it undertakes a peacekeeping operation under a United Nations mandate.

228. The Special Committee, mindful that the Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, recognizes the strategic relationship between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council and welcomes the enhanced interaction, cooperation and relationship between them, with a view to ensuring rapid and appropriate responses to emerging situations and developing effective strategies for conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding on the continent.

229. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa, as a concrete step in the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, and notes that the mandates and functions of, inter alia, the United

Nations Liaison Office to the African Union and the African Union Peacekeeping Support Team have all been integrated into the United Nations Office to the African Union.

230. The Special Committee recognizes, in addition to the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping partnership in ongoing operations, the need for continual operational and planning support as well as long-term capacity-building support to the African Union Commission for its peacekeeping operations under the framework of the 10-year capacity-building programme. This includes support to the planning and management of the ongoing operations, as well as potential future operations, and to provide technical advice and support in the development of the policies, guidelines, doctrine and training for the African Standby Force as part of the African Peace and Security Architecture. The Special Committee recognizes the potential contribution of the African Standby Force to peace and security in Africa, and, in this regard, encourages support to the African Union efforts in fully operationalizing the Force by 2015.

231. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to strengthen training, logistics, and other forms of support to the African Union in peacekeeping and in this regard notes the efforts of the Integrated Training Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in contributing to the strengthening of peacekeeping training capacity of the African Union. The Special Committee welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the United Nations Office to the African Union and the African Union Commission in the areas of mission planning, development of doctrines and policies, military, police, logistics, medical, human resources, procurement and other mission support.

232. The Special Committee emphasizes that the lessons learned through past United Nations-African Union collaboration on peacekeeping must be noted for future cooperation, based on the recommendations contained in section V.B of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security (S/2011/805).

233. The Special Committee stresses the importance of building the peacekeeping capacities of African Member States. The Special Committee recognizes the need to bolster the participation by new troop-contributing countries of the continent and to strengthen their capacities, with the support of partners.

234. The Special Committee encourages the enhancement of international support to African peacekeeping training centres, which are essential tools in the deployment of African peacekeeping forces.

L. Developing stronger United Nations field support arrangements

235. The Special Committee recognizes the responses to the challenges faced by the Organization in providing logistic, administrative and information and communications technology support for peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee notes that the objectives of the global field support strategy are to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery in an integrated, accountable and transparent manner and are aimed at both enabling timelier mission start-up and improving the support to mission operations. In this respect, the Special Committee encourages its continued implementation through intensifying

consultations with all Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/591) regarding the progress in its implementation, which incorporates an overview of the activities undertaken and results achieved during the first year of the five-year implementation timeline of the strategy.

236. The Special Committee remains committed to the consideration of any new proposals conducive to the enhancement of the United Nations capacity to fulfil its responsibilities in the field of peacekeeping, in accordance with its mandate to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all its aspects. The Special Committee recognizes that the global field support strategy was developed by the Secretary-General as a five-year process to transform the delivery of support services to the United Nations field missions.

237. The Special Committee recognizes that the objectives of the predefined modules and service packages are the improvement of the speed and predictability required for mission start-up and the enabling of the rapid development of infrastructure to support contingents being deployed. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to continue to work in close consultation with Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, in further developing predefined modules and service packages, with a view to improving the quality and expediting the delivery of services to field missions. The Special Committee notes that the phase 1A module became available as planned in June 2011. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to take into consideration the results achieved so far in the deployment of individual service packages in current missions in the development of subsequent service packages, and to provide updates on this process in the informal briefings.

238. The Special Committee looks forward to the possible implementation of the confirmed modules that are configured from the strategic deployment stocks, as appropriate, and corresponding service packages in current missions, so that adequate and flexible logistics support to contingents can be improved.

239. The Special Committee notes that the intention of the global service delivery model is to provide support services to field missions and address safety and security challenges for the United Nations personnel in higher-threat areas.

240. Noting that phase II of the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda, is still ongoing, the Special Committee underlines that the creation of any additional regional service centres requires further consultations with Member States.

241. The Special Committee notes that a control self-assessment exercise, supported by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, is part of the risk management framework of the global field support strategy. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to include in one of its briefings information on the action plan to address identified risks.

242. The Special Committee underlines the importance of the informal briefings and, in order to enable meaningful discussions with all Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, requests the Secretariat to continue to provide informal quarterly briefings on the strategy in all its operational aspects. With regard to the global field support strategy, the Special Committee notes that briefings are an important part of the consultative process but do not constitute an approval process.

243. With respect to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to include in the informal briefings an update on the ongoing work under phase II, initiated on 1 July 2011.

244. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to include in one of its briefings, prior to the next substantive session, information on how further developments in the implementation of the global field support strategy could improve support to field missions.

245. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of providing high-quality field service to Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, and requests the Secretariat to continue to improve its responsive service culture.

M. Best practices and training

246. The Special Committee continues to encourage the Secretariat to make full use of the Integrated Training Service and Office of Military Affairs assessment teams before deployments to identify any shortfalls and assist in addressing these and to provide explicit and comprehensive training modules, in a timely manner, taking note of the training priorities contained within the Training Directive of the respective mission Force Commander/Police Commissioner. This should include methods to improve coordination in the delivery, validation and certification of effective peacekeeping training programmes. The Special Committee continues to urge the Secretariat to facilitate capacity-building efforts using enhanced training material and through the application of "train-the-trainer" packages. This includes the predeployment visits to allow those conducting peacekeeping operations to focus on mission-specific requirements and to tailor the training and validation packages accordingly prior to deployment.

247. The Special Committee stresses the need for the United Nations to follow best practice in all peacekeeping activities. The Special Committee notes with satisfaction the continued development of the website of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, entitled "Peacekeeping Resource Hub: Policy, Lessons Learned and Training for the Peacekeeping Community". The Special Committee stresses the need for this website to enhance global peacekeeping capacity by providing the peacekeeping community with timely access to relevant training standards, materials and tools, as well as relevant guidance documents, and for these documents to be translated into the official languages of the United Nations, as necessary. The Special Committee notes with regret that this website continues to be available only in one official language and requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing before the end of 2012 on the steps taken to make the website available in the official languages of the United Nations.

248. The Special Committee reaffirms the shared responsibility of the troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat in providing adequately trained personnel with the professional background, expertise and capabilities required according to United Nations standards. Noting the continued complex demands of peacekeeping operations and the benefits of cooperation in peacekeeping training between Member States, the Special Committee continues to urge the Secretariat to facilitate capacity-building efforts.

249. The Special Committee welcomes the training needs assessment being undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which will assess the effectiveness of existing peacekeeping training and determine where there may be gaps in the skills, knowledge or training delivery required for the effective implementation of mandates. The Special Committee notes that peacekeeping training is currently provided by a number of actors, namely Member States, United Nations system organizations and non-governmental training organizations. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to consider in its assessment the peacekeeping training conducted by all these actors and to keep Member States engaged in the progression of the assessment. This assessment will provide an important opportunity to ensure that there is coherence and a common view of the roles and responsibilities of the various actors engaged in providing training to peacekeepers. The Special Committee looks forward, at its next substantive session, to an update on the outcomes of the training needs assessment.

250. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of peacekeeping training as a tool for enabling United Nations peacekeepers to successfully implement peacekeeping mandates on the ground and ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers in volatile environments. The Special Committee notes the revised allocation of resources for peacekeeping training and the associated initiative by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to implement a partnership strategy, in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General on the progress of training in peacekeeping (A/65/644 and Corr.1). The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide an update, as soon as practicable before its next substantive session, on the allocation of resources to peacekeeping training to include future budgetary allocations and the implementation of the partnership strategy, in order to determine how Member States can best support this strategy.

251. The Special Committee continues to acknowledge that the predeployment training of contingents and individual uniformed personnel remains a national responsibility, but that the provision of certain mission-specific training materials is the responsibility of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee requests an update on the status of such materials for each peacekeeping operation for the full range of potential peacekeepers and on any projects that are being developed or implemented by the Department regarding these materials. The Special Committee requests that this update also indicate whether these materials are available in the six United Nations official languages, as has been repeatedly requested in past resolutions of the General Assembly and in reports of the Committee. The Special Committee further requests that any contravention be accounted for and a specific timetable for translation be provided to Member States.

252. The Special Committee notes the increasing complexity of peacekeeping operations and the continuously rising demand for resources, which necessitate further cooperation in peacekeeping training among Member States, including the provision of training opportunities and assistance to new and emerging troop-contributing countries. The Committee urges the Secretariat to continue to facilitate capacity-building efforts through both the application of the "train-the-trainers" concept and the best use of available resources, including through focused, mission-specific scenario training aimed at addressing challenges encountered in previous experiences in missions, especially through the lessons-learned concept.

Emphasizing the need for improved, mission-specific predeployment training, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to continue to work consistently in partnership with troop-contributing countries, in order to address new challenges not previously anticipated during the course of developing various suggested scenario-based training modules.

253. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure the provision of adequate and updated gender-sensitivity training material to national and regional peacekeeping training centres.

254. The Special Committee continues to support the efforts of Member States and regional arrangements to enhance the capacity of peacekeeping personnel through peacekeeping training centres. The Special Committee welcomes the initiative to provide up-to-date material and to share best practices through the Peacekeeping Training Community of Practice website (http://pktcop.unlb.org). The Committee requests that the means of access to this site be reviewed and simplified by the end of 2012 and that policy papers, guidance and training documents, manuals and regulations be consolidated, updated and incorporated into a single, protected database where the information is easily accessible. The Special Committee also requests an annual update on the status of the project and the usage by the various peacekeeping training centres.

255. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing efforts referred to in the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations police (A/66/615) regarding the series of regional "train-the-trainers" courses organized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as part of the Secretariat's efforts to standardize United Nations predeployment training for formed police units. The Special Committee encourages the early availability of these materials for potential use of police-contributing countries.

256. The Special Committee notes the findings of the initial independent evaluation of the Senior Mission Administration and Resource Training (SMART) programme. Acknowledging the recommendation by the Secretariat for a longer-term assessment to occur over the next three years, the Special Committee requests an update on this programme prior to the substantive session in 2015.

257. The Special Committee notes the sustained increase of the police dimension in a number of missions, and further stresses the need to address shortfalls in the standing force requirement for police personnel in peacekeeping operations, particularly for police officers with specialist skill sets. With regard to the specialized expertise required in peacekeeping missions, the Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to indicate measures to address the additional training needs.

258. The Special Committee welcomes technological advances, including e-learning, which supplement traditional training methods, and provide access to standardized training materials across a widely distributed population of military, police and civilian peacekeepers. The Special Committee welcomes the free and multilingual delivery of e-learning courses on peacekeeping, such as those provided by the Peace Operations Training Institute, including the E-Learning for African Peacekeepers and E-Learning for Peacekeepers from Latin America and the Caribbean. The Special Committee also welcomes the integrated distance learning programmes provided directly to the peacekeeping missions by the Institute. The

Special Committee continues to encourage support for such initiatives by Member States through voluntary financial contributions and encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work with all interested parties to develop a coherent strategy for the delivery of economical and efficient United Nations endorsed e-learning in order to further enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping.

259. The Special Committee welcomes the contribution of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to peacekeeping training through its "train-the-trainer" programme being implemented in Africa. The programme aims to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills to the national and regional training institutions in a sustainable manner, as well as capacity-building. The Special Committee requests that this "train-the-trainers" programme be expanded to other regions, including Asia and Latin America.

260. The Special Committee continues to emphasize the role of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as the primary body responsible for the development, implementation and validation of peacekeeping training standards and advice. The Special Committee urges the continued close cooperation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with Member States, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the University for Peace, the Peace Operations Training Institute, other training partners and with the respective peacekeeping missions in the field to provide optimal and timely direction for those conducting peacekeeping operations.

261. The Special Committee reaffirms the Charter of the United Nations and acknowledges the importance of, inter alia, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law. The Committee therefore encourages the widest possible dissemination of information among peacekeeping personnel about the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law, including in training materials, so as to enable them to understand how the implementation of the mandated tasks intersects with these fields of law, and to act accordingly.

262. Recognizing the increasingly important role of civil affairs officers in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and the need for ongoing efforts to support the work of civil affairs officers, the Special Committee welcomes the initiatives of the Secretariat in this regard. In particular, the Special Committee welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat to develop civil affairs, guidance, and associated training materials.

N. Personnel

263. The Special Committee recognizes the efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with regard to balanced recruiting of staff in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts. The Special Committee reiterates that, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter, in the employment of staff the paramount consideration shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and that due

regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Special Committee notes that the gender perspective should continue to be pursued in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

264. The Special Committee recalls paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/290, and requests the Secretary-General to make further concrete efforts to ensure the proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, taking into account their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee believes that appropriate representation in peacekeeping missions should also take into account the contributions of Member States, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure a fair representation of troop-contributing countries when selecting personnel for such staff positions.

265. The Special Committee, recalling General Assembly resolutions 63/250 and 65/247, expresses concern at the continuing low proportion of women in the Secretariat, in particular the low proportion of women from developing countries especially at the senior levels, and stresses that, in the recruitment process, the continuing lack of representation or the underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries, should be taken into account, and that those women should be accorded equal opportunities, in full conformity with relevant resolutions.

266. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures for the selection of the best qualified candidates for positi. ns at senior and policymaking levels, with due consideration for geographical diversity, as a means to strengthen the peacekeeping partnership.

267. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts made by the Department of Field Support to address the issue of the number of vacancies in peacekeeping missions, and reiterates its requests to the Secretariat to accelerate the recruitment and approval process of personnel, including senior mission leadership. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolutions 63/250, 65/247 and 65/248, and reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General to swiftly implement the decisions on contractual arrangements and harmonization of conditions of service, as a means of dealing with the vacancy issue in peacekeeping operations.

268. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts made by the Secretariat to improve the recruitment and selection process for appointments of military and police specialists in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including by improving transparency throughout, and continues to urge the Secretariat to expedite this process. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to circulate, on a yearly basis, a list with such vacancies in specialist areas to Member States in a timely and transparent manner.

269. The Special Committee underlines that, in the selection of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and other posts of senior mission leadership, the leadership competencies of the candidates are and should continue to be one among other prominent considerations, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

270. In the context of human resources management and the ongoing reform in this area, the Special Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of section VIII of its resolution 63/250, requested the Secretary-General to submit

proposals on a strategy to implement an efficient and effective training and professional development programme. The Special Committee reiterates its support for the exploration of this issue, with a view to enhancing the quality of staff as well as improving retention of valuable staff in the United Nations peacekeeping bodies.

271. The Special Committee recognizes the continuing need for competent civilian components in peacekeeping operations, and notes that the Secretary-General, in his report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) underlines the need for improved mobilization of relevant resources.

272. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 6 of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/296, requests the Secretary-General to continue to give due attention, under the existing staff rules and regulations, to the issue of the greater use of national staff in peacekeeping operations and its impact on the relations with the host country. The Special Committee underscores the advantages of local recruitment in peacekeeping missions, and the positive impact of those recruited on the relations with the host society.

273. The Special Committee recalls that English and French are the two working languages of the Secretariat. The Special Committee underlines the importance of effective interaction between Headquarters and the field to ensure efficient communications and the safety of all peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, it encourages the Secretary-General to take steps to employ staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support who are competent in the working languages of the Secretariat.

274. The Special Committee acknowledges that the interaction of United Nations military, police and civilian personnel with the local population is necessary for the efficient and successful implementation of peacekeeping operations. To that end, language skills are required and shall constitute an important element of the selection and training processes. Therefore, the Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to make further efforts in recruiting staff and experts on mission with language skills that are relevant to the particular mission area where they are to be deployed, so that specific requirements of peacekeeping operations can be addressed. In particular, good command of the official language spoken in the country should be taken into account as an essential asset during these processes.

275. The Special Committee reminds the Secretariat that staff sent to United Nations field operations to conduct examinations for experts on mission, in particular examinations in language and driving skills, are to be certified and adhere to examination criteria based on the standard United Nations programmes.

276. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the outreach efforts conducted by the Field Personnel Division with Member States, with a view to encouraging more candidates, in particular from developing countries, to apply for vacancies in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and encourages that these efforts be maintained and strengthened.

O. Financial issues

277. The Special Committee recalls paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of section II of resolution 64/269, and urges for a speedy and appropriate follow-up on compensation claims

submitted by troop- and police-contributing countries in cases of illness, disability or death, as a result of their participation in peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee also requests that the issue of payment of compensation for these cases be dealt with urgently and as a priority.

278. The Special Committee recalls all provisions of resolutions, in particular paragraph 1 of resolution 61/279, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters. The Special Committee also recalls rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

279. The Special Committee again stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

280. The Special Committee expresses concern over the significant amounts of outstanding reimbursements that the United Nations currently owes to troop-contributing countries, and also notes that there are still contributors which have not yet been reimbursed for their participation in various ongoing and closed missions, going back more than a decade.

281. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring the timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries for their peacekeeping contributions. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing and payment of reimbursements, mindful of the adverse effects of such delays on the capacities of troop-contributing countries to sustain their participation.

282. The Special Committee expresses its concern at the delays experienced in housing peacekeeping personnel in appropriate accommodations that provide adequate protection against the elements in all missions, and requests the Secretariat to take the necessary measures to improve the situation pursuant to the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual.

283. The Special Committee notes that the most recent review of troop costs was in 1992, with a subsequent ad hoc increase in 2001 and 2002, and that troop-contributing countries have expressed concern that this has placed a difficult financial burden on them, which they assert could jeopardize the sustainability of participation in peacekeeping operations.

284. The Special Committee recalls paragraphs 51 and 52 of section V of resolution 66/264 on cross-cutting issues, and underlines the importance of the senior advisory group, which was established to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues.

285. The Special Committee notes the review of the methodology for rates of reimbursement on account of troop costs and related allowances as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution A/63/285, and notes that proper analysis of the results of the periodic surveys could help decisions in the Fifth Committee.

P. Other matters

286. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to improve the timeliness of its submissions in order that the Special Committee may continue and further improve its work and make it as relevant and as effective as possible.

287. The Special Committee welcomes the progress that has been made by its members in discussing and implementing measures to enhance the working methods of the Committee and its Working Group of the Whole, in accordance with the related decision adopted on 21 February 2012, and without prejudice to the rules and procedures of the General Assembly and its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 1965. The Special Committee encourages its members to continue to hold an informal dialogue before its next session, with a view to identifying further improvements to enhance its working methods, while also addressing the recommendations already made. The Special Committee encourages the Bureau to continue to facilitate this dialogue and to keep Member States updated on developments related thereto.

288. The Special Committee stresses the importance for peacekeeping missions to take steps aimed at implementing sound environmental practices in order to reduce the overall environmental footprint of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the necessity of observing the established United Nations rules and regulations applicable to the functioning of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee requests a briefing on the preparation of the implementation plan of the Environmental Policy for United Nations Field Missions.

289. The Special Committee notes that briefings are an important part of the consultative process but are not a substitute for approval, when required.

Annex I

Decision on working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group of the Whole

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, recalling paragraph 277 of the report on its 2011 session (A/65/19) and underlining the desirability to enhance its working methods, in particular those of its Working Group of the Whole:

(a) Decides to implement the following changes to its working methods, with effect from its 2012 session:

(i) In order to reduce the amount of text to be negotiated during the annual session, standardized paragraphs of the chapter of the report of the Special Committee entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions" that do not change from year to year will be identified and agreed ad referendum in advance of the negotiating part of the session by the negotiating partners, in coordination with the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole;

(ii) The negotiating partners, in coordination with the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, are encouraged to streamline similar inputs to the draft chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions", with a view to submitting a single version to the Working Group of the Whole. In this regard, the Chair of the Working Group will aim to present a streamlined first draft of the chapter for the negotiations. For reference, an unedited comprehensive first draft, showing all inputs received, will also be made available to the Working Group of the Whole;

(iii) As a rule, the number of subsidiary working groups established to negotiate the draft chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions" should not exceed eight. In order to allow delegations to plan their participation, the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole is encouraged to disseminate the list of subsidiary working groups and their programmes of work as early as possible during the session;

(iv) Within each section of the chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions", the non-operative paragraphs will be separated from the recommendations made and briefings requested. Requests for briefings and recommendations will also clearly identify the actors at which the requests and recommendations are aimed;

(b) Also decides to keep its working methods under review, with a view to formulating further recommendations, as appropriate;

(c) Further decides that the present decision will be included as an annex to the report of the Special Committee on its 2012 session.

Annex II

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2012 session

Members: The Special Committee currently consists of the following 147 members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liberia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Holy See, African Union, European Union, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Police Organization, International Organization of la Francophonie, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

12-42396 (E) 130912